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LETTER DATED 13 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In reference to the meeting of the Security Council in which draft resolutions S/24421 and S/24422 were to be adopted, and that the Council members decided not to hold a formal debate, I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of my statement and I would be grateful if the said statement could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nabil A. ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

(Original: Arabic)

Press release: Statement by Mr. Nabil A. Elaraby, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations, New York, before the Security Council on the question of Bosnia and Herzegovina

New York, 13 August 1992

I should like, first of all, to present to you my sincere congratulations on your presidency of the Security Council and on your wise management of the successive crises being dealt with by the Council. I also express thanks to your predecessor, Ambassador José Luis Jesus, Permanent Representative of Cape Verde, on his endeavours during his presidency of the Council last month.

The Security Council is today considering the two draft resolutions before it concerning the grave and worsening situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (documents S/24421, S/24422). The Council is discussing, in this connection, a problem that represents a blatant threat to international peace and security, namely, the problem arising essentially from the blatant aggression of the army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia against the land and people of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a Member of the United Nations. This is the newly independent State that, in these times, needs the full support of the international community in order to enable it to take up its role in the international community and to enable its people to enjoy its natural right to live in peace and security within the recognized borders of that State, under the Charter of the United Nations, which states in its preamble the necessity of saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

The Arab Republic of Egypt is following closely - and with extreme concern and grief - the bloody events taking place on the soil of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Egyptian people is pained to witness the massacres and other practices constituting violations of human rights and breaches of all international laws and customs by the armed forces of a State that has historic relations of friendship with my country within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement, which was founded for the purpose of achieving noble objectives that are as remote as could be from the practices of the Serbian authorities vis-à-vis the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina which have come to light recently and a portion of which have been publicized by the international media, not to speak of what has been hidden behind the bars of prisons and detention camps that have so far escaped international inspection.

The Security Council, which is about to vote on the two draft resolutions put before it, should take into consideration a number of basic principles, foremost among them the following:

1. The current crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina has arisen from military aggression on the part of a State Member of the United Nations against the security and people of another State Member. It is therefore necessary to treat the roots of the crisis through the intervention of the international community by the adoption of the collective security measures provided under Chapter VII, in order to put an end to this aggression, particularly since the aggressor State has not responded to the Council's resolutions calling for a halt to the aggression, in particular resolutions 752 (1992) and 757 (1992).

2. The human tragedy which the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina is experiencing under the blockade requires swift and decisive intervention by the United Nations before it turns into a historic catastrophe, now that arbitrary Serbian practices have forced more than 2 million of the people of Bosnia to leave their homes, not to mention the thousands who are dying under torture in detention centres and from hunger and the blockade.

3. The importance of halting the forcible collective displacement of the Muslim population of Bosnia and settling Serbian inhabitants in their homes and on their lands for nazi racist reasons, such as "ethnic cleansing", which represents a stigma on the new international order, which accords human rights first priority in its list of concerns.

The real solution of the tragedy taking place on the soil of Bosnia and Herzegovina might be achieved through the intervention of the international community, with implementation of the measures provided by the United Nations Charter, to remove the aggression that has befallen the land of this State Member of the Organization, and with the use of all possible means - including military force - to apply international legitimacy to the aggressor party and force it to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, so that the Serbian aggresson weighing on the existence of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina may be removed.

Egypt was favourable to the appeal of the international community and participated with the forces requested of it as part of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the Sarajevo sector, believing in the centrality of the role of the United Nations in preserving international peace and security from all threats to which they might be exposed.

Nevertheless, in the face of the current situation, in which the United Nations forces that assumed the responsibilities of protection are themselves threatened as a result of the continuation of crushing military battles in that area, the truth that now imposes itself is the necessity of using the measures provided under Chapter VII of the Charter, in order to enable UNPROFOR to carry out the task entrusted to it.

For the same purpose of applying international legitimacy, my country's delegation believes that it is necessary for the Security Council to affirm the respect of all States for the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the full sovereignty of its Government over its territory within its frontiers, to permit the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to

exercise the right of self-defence within the framework of the United Nations Charter and to assist it in implementing this right by enabling it to obtain the essential defensive means necesary for that purpose.

My country's delegation trusts that the resolution that is adopted by the Council today will apply international legitimacy, and it hopes that the Council will affirm its adherence to the application of the same rules and standards in all parts of the world, on a footing of equality, because support for the principles of international legitimacy requires that the same rules and principles should apply in dealing with every State alike.

The Arab Republic of Egypt, in affirming those matters of principle, expresses its hope that the Serbian and Montenegrin authorities will desist from their repressive policies against the Muslim people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and will commit themselves to renunciation of force and resort to peaceful means of settling regional differences, so that a just peace may be established as soon as possible in that area, in order that those Republics may once again make an effective and positive contribution, as Yugoslavia did in establishing the principles of international legitimacy and friendly relations among States.

Thank you.